

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 148

By Stewart

A RESOLUTION to honor Karen Johnson, Davidson County Register of Deeds.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly are pleased to recognize a true trailblazer in her community and in her profession; and

WHEREAS, elected Davidson County Register of Deeds in August 2018, Karen Johnson is the first African American and the first woman to be elected to that position; and

WHEREAS, Register Johnson first evidenced her passion for public service by serving two terms as the Metro Nashville Council member for District 29; she first won the seat with a fifty-two-percent majority in a competitive five-candidate race and four years later gained reelection with an eighty-two-percent majority, the largest victory margin of any contested race that year; and

WHEREAS, during her distinguished tenure on the Metro Council, Karen Johnson served as chair of the Charter Revisions Committee, vice chair of the Rules, Confirmations and Public Elections Committee, and a member of the Budget and Finance, Public Works, and Traffic and Parking committees; and

WHEREAS, she worked diligently on behalf of her constituents and was instrumental in the creation of the Smith Springs Regional Community Center, Cane Ridge High School, and Smith Springs Elementary School; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Johnson secured an upgrade for and the addition of restrooms at Una Sports Park facilities and successfully championed the first Civil Rights art project for Nashville, which is located on the grounds of the Historic Metro Courthouse; and

WHEREAS, in a unanimous vote, she was elected President Pro Tempore by her colleagues on the Metro Council; and

WHEREAS, renowned as a dedicated community servant and creative thinker, Register Johnson also served as an elected member of the Metro School Board and was appointed to the Metro boards of Zoning Appeals and Parks and Recreation; and

WHEREAS, she currently serves as a member of the Metro Public Records Commission and is a Certified Public Administrator with the University of Tennessee Institute for Public Service; and

WHEREAS, she was selected as a Fellow of the National Black Caucus of Local Elected Officials and served as a regional director on its board of directors; she meets the challenges of her present office as a member of the County Officials Association of Tennessee, the Tennessee Registers Association, the Property Records Industry Association, and the Tennessee Land Title Association; and

WHEREAS, she was a member of the boards of Women in Municipal Government and the Tennessee Municipal League, which she served as chair and vice chair of the Large Cities Council and vice chair of the Transportation and Infrastructure Services committees; and

WHEREAS, Register Johnson was elected to the National League of Cities Board of Directors, becoming the first person from Nashville or Tennessee to serve at the national level of the organization; and

WHEREAS, prior to serving as Register of Deeds, Karen Johnson worked in human resources and records management for the State of Tennessee, HCA, Shoney's Inc., and Mercy Health Services; and

WHEREAS, she has given back to her community as a member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc., and its Les Gemmes Nashville chapter, chair of the Sister for Sister Conference—100 Black Women-Metro Nashville, president of the Tennessee Women's Political Caucus, secretary for the Nashville Women's Political Caucus, and one of the founding board members for the Tennessee Woman Suffrage Monument; and

WHEREAS, Karen Johnson expresses her faith as a member of Mt. Zion Baptist Church, where she serves in the Usher Ministry; and

WHEREAS, no stranger to awards and accolades, she was named one of the *Nashville Business Journal's* Women of Influence, *The Tennessean's* 40 Under 40, and the Nashville Chamber's Emerging Leaders; she received the Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Tau Lambda Chapter's public service award, and she was honored by the Tennessee State University Foundation as a Woman of Legend and for Merit in Government; and

WHEREAS, Register Johnson is a Young Leaders Council graduate (Class 39) and Leadership Nashville alumna; and

WHEREAS, the daughter of educators who taught at Fisk University and Metro Nashville Public Schools, respectively, she lost her parents at an early age; and

WHEREAS, Karen Johnson persevered through this tragedy to graduate from public schools and then earn a bachelor's degree in business administration at Tennessee State University and a Master of Business Administration degree in Management at Trevecca Nazarene University, all while raising two small boys and working full time; and

WHEREAS, her many accomplishments aside, Karen Johnson is most appreciative of the love and companionship she shares with her husband, David Johnson, a former United States Marine; their three sons, Jonathan, Christopher, and Dave, all of whom are graduates of Metro Nashville Public Schools; and a granddaughter; and

WHEREAS, Karen Johnson epitomizes the ideal of the dedicated public servant, objective elected official, and involved community member, and she is most worthy of our approbation; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED TWELFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we honor and commend Karen Johnson for her proficient service as

Davidson County Register of Deeds and her ongoing commitment to making Nashville an even better place to live and extend to her our best wishes for much continued success and happiness in her future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy and upon proper request made to the appropriate clerk, the language appearing immediately following the State seal appear without House or Senate designation.